

THE STATE WATER BOARD'S ROLE IN SUSTAINABLE GROUNDWATER MANAGEMENT

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Updates

- Background: What got us to the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA)
- SGMA Overview
- SWRCB, DWR activities and coordination
- Other Program work

SGMA

Signed by Governor on September 16, 2014

- AB 1739 (Dickinson)
- SB 1168 (Pavley)
- SB 1319 (Pavley)
- Effective January 1, 2015



“A central feature of these bills is the recognition that groundwater management in California is best accomplished locally.”

- Governor Edmund G. Brown Jr., in signing statement accompanying SGMA groundwater legislation.

The Basics

- Requires formation of sustainability agencies and development of sustainability plans
 - 127 High and medium priority basins
- Authorizes management tools for local agencies
- Defines timeframe for accomplishing goals
- Provides alternative if users can show basin is sustainable
- Creates state “backstop”

STATEWIDE

SGMA PRIORITIZATION

Basins displayed by priority:

43 High Priority (O)

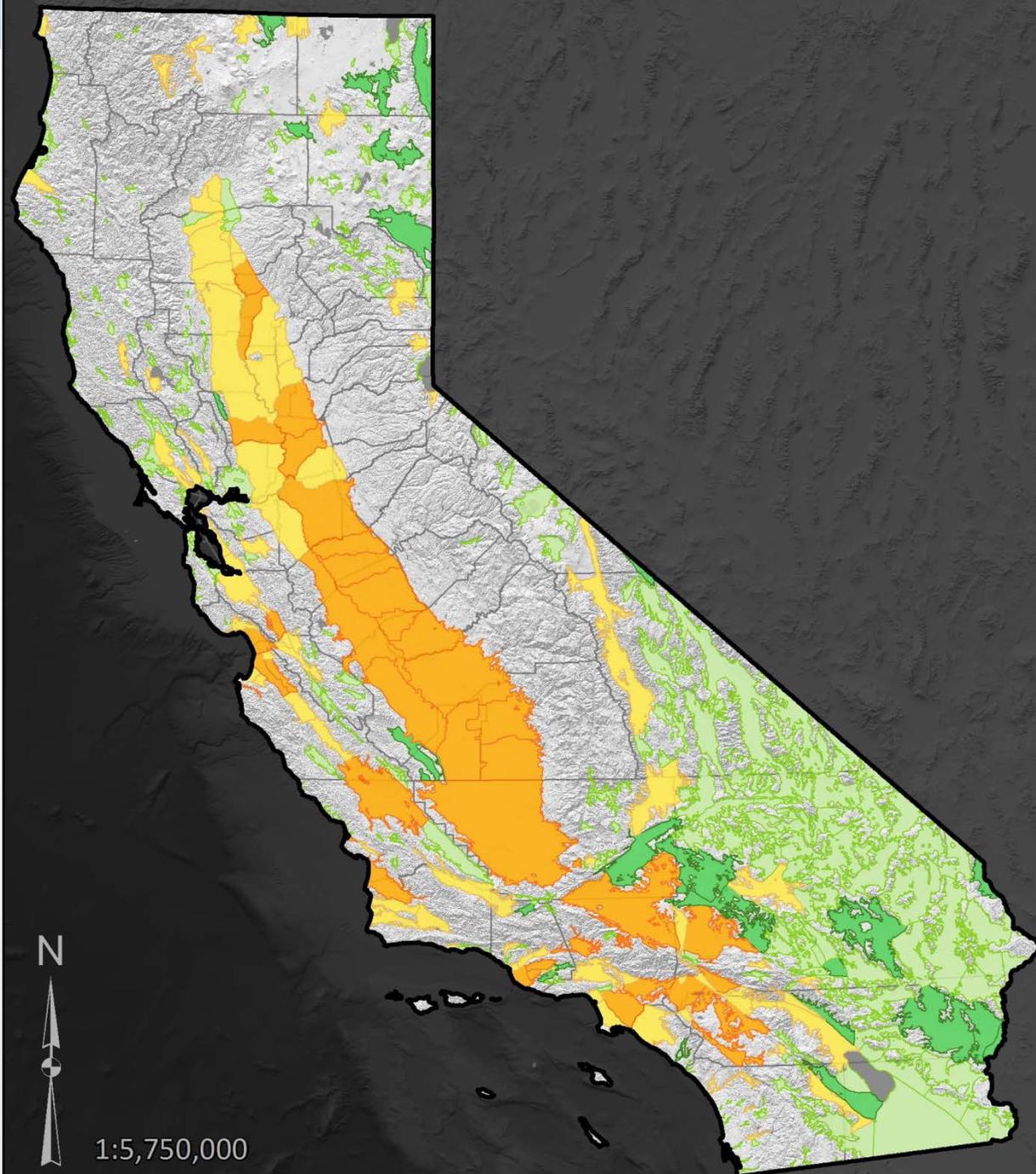
84 Medium Priority (Y)

27 Low Priority (G)

361 Very Low Priority (Lt. G)

Criteria are:

1. Population
2. Population growth
3. Number of public supply wells
4. Total number of wells
5. Irrigated acreage
6. Degree of dependence
7. Documented impacts
8. Other relevant information, such as adverse impacts to local habitat or streamflows



REGION 1

SGMA PRIORITIZATION

Basins displayed by priority:

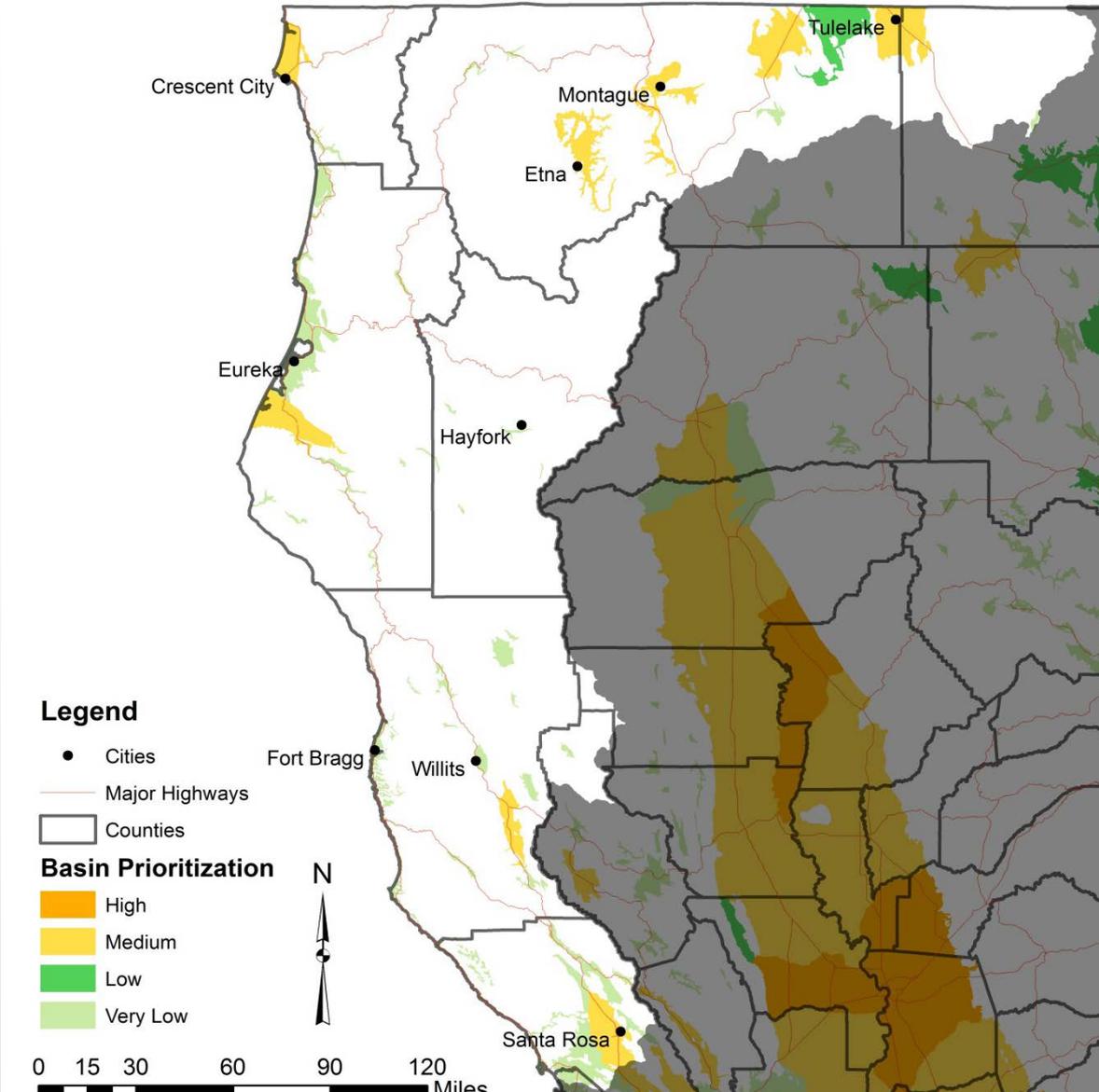
8 Medium Priority (Y)

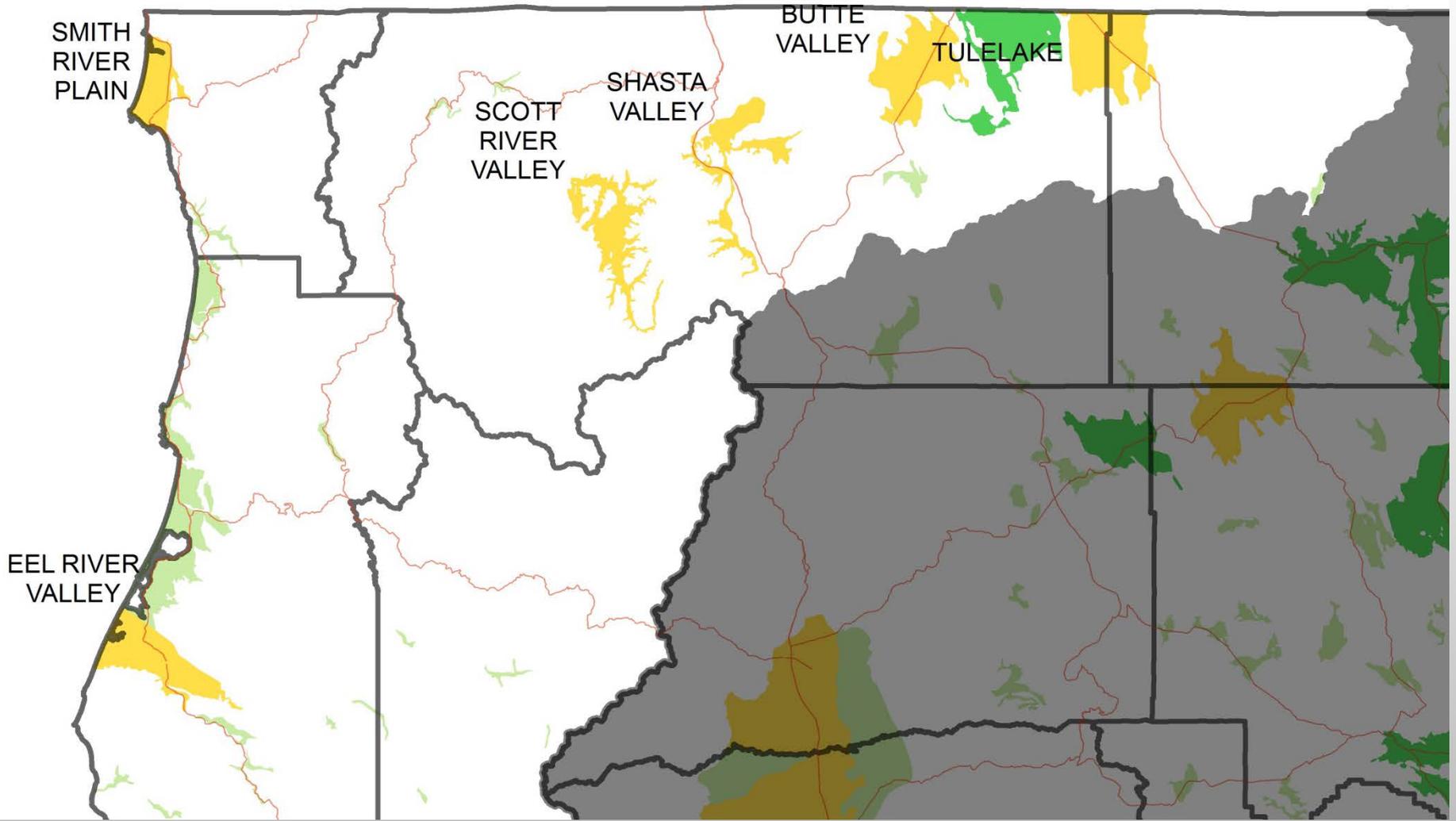
2 Low Priority (G)

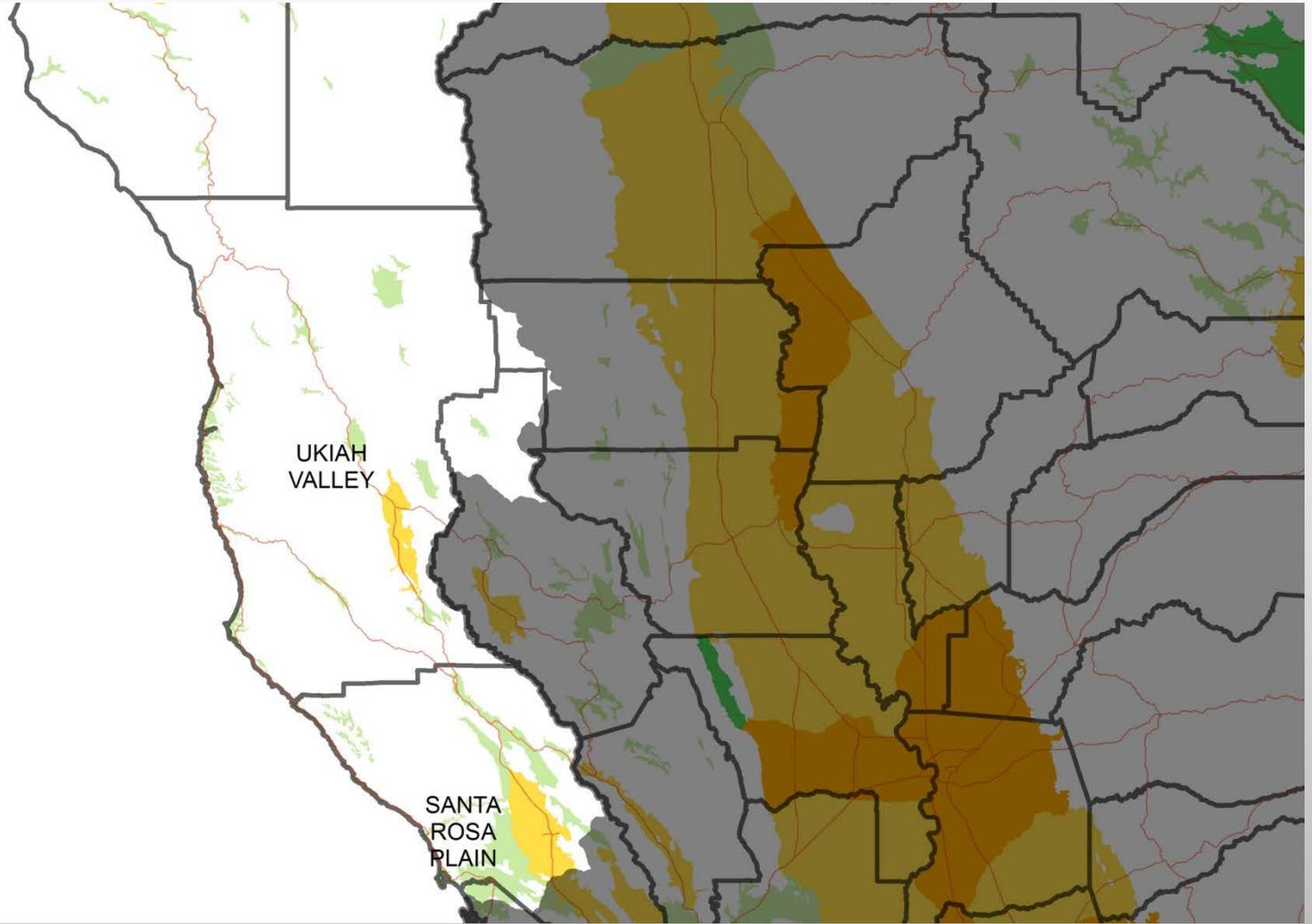
54 Very Low Priority (Lt. G)

Medium Priority Basins:

- Santa Rosa Plain
- Ukiah Valley
- Eel River Valley
- Smith River Plain
- Scott River Valley
- Shasta Valley
- Butte Valley
- Tulelake







Key SGMA Requirements

- Groundwater Sustainability Agencies (GSAs) (2017)
 - One or more agencies
 - If more than one agency per basin, GSAs must coordinate
- GSAs Prepare Groundwater Sustainability Plans (GSPs) (2020/2022)
 - Measurable objectives
 - Implementation milestones
 - Annual reports (water use, extraction, change in storage)
- Achieve Sustainability 20 years after plan adoption, prevent “undesirable results”

Sustainable groundwater management

Management and use of groundwater in a manner that can be maintained during the planning and implementation horizon without causing undesirable results.

Undesirable results

- Chronic lowering of groundwater levels (not including overdraft during a drought, if a basin is otherwise managed)
- Significant and unreasonable:
 - reductions in groundwater storage
 - seawater intrusion
 - degradation of water quality
 - Significant and unreasonable land subsidence
 - Surface water depletions adversely impacting on beneficial uses

State Board Intervention Triggers

After	Intervention Trigger
June 30, 2017	No Groundwater Sustainability Agency formed.
Jan. 31, 2020	In basins in a condition of critical overdraft: 1) No sustainability plan has been adopted, or 2) The Department of Water Resources (DWR), in consultation with the State Water Board, finds that the sustainability plan or its implementation is inadequate.
Jan. 31, 2022	In other high- or medium-priority basins: 1) No sustainability plan has been adopted, or 2) DWR, in consultation with the State Water Board, finds the sustainability plan or its implementation is inadequate, and the State Water Board finds that the basin is in a condition of long-term overdraft.
Jan. 31, 2025	DWR, in consultation with the State Water Board, finds that the sustainability plan is inadequate or the plan is not being implemented in a manner that is likely to achieve the sustainability goal, and the State Water Board finds there are significant depletions of interconnected surface waters.

State Water Board Roles

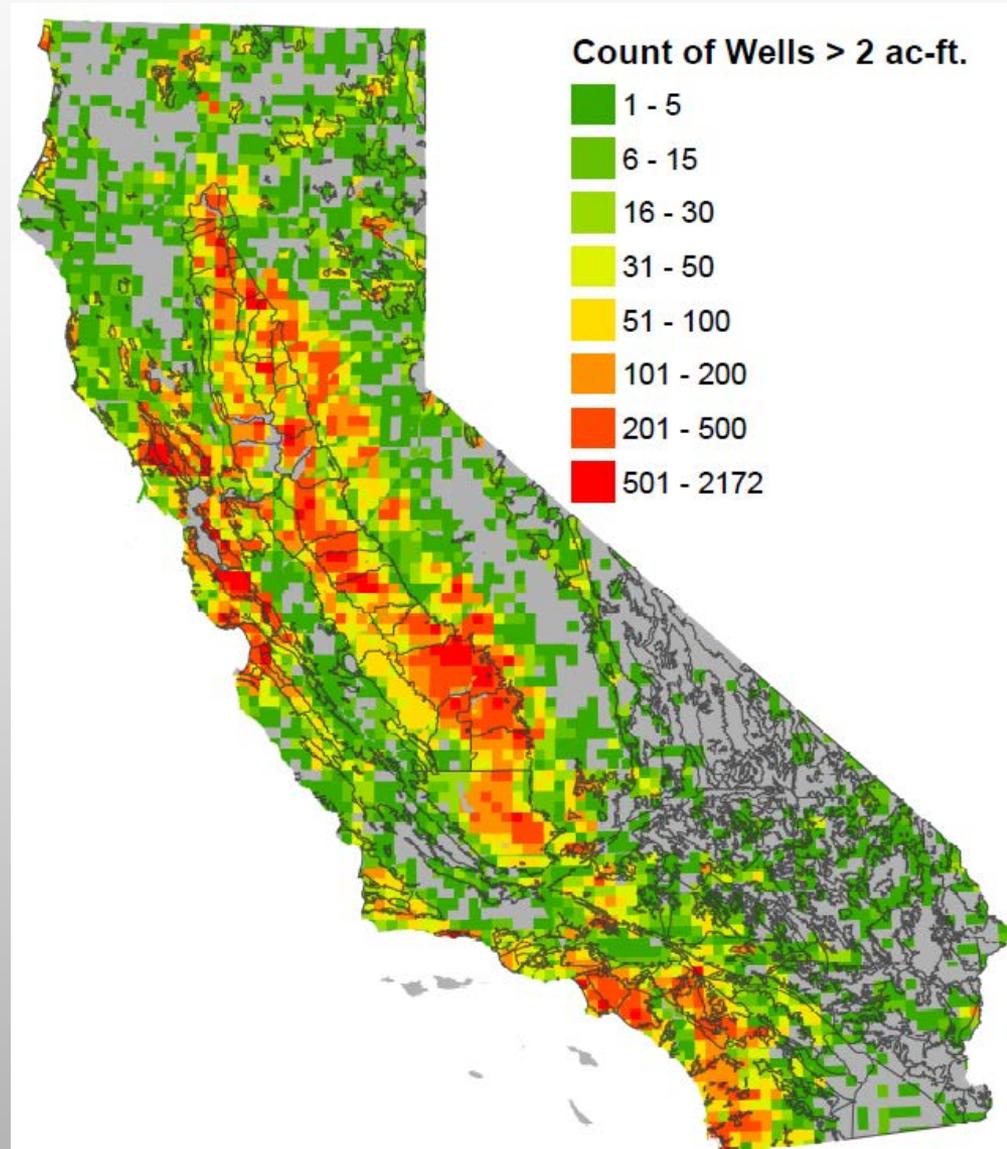
- The State Backstop
 - Data Manager
 - Basin Manager
- Coordination with DWR
 - Communication
 - Outreach
 - Regulation development
 - Implementation of the backstop

Role as Data Manager: Potentially Un-Managed Areas (PUMAs)

- First backstop role for Board is data collection (July 1, 2017)
- Groundwater users in PUMAs report to State Board (Water Code §5203)
 - Place of extraction
 - Monthly records of volume of extractions
 - Purpose of use
 - Place of use
 - *Any other info required to designate a basin as probationary and write interim plans*

Reporting System Needs

- Electronic reporting system to collect PUMA data
- Data need for interim plans
- Track fees
- Public interface



Scoping, IT
business analysis
process,
coordination with
DWR

2015

2016

2017

Functional
by July 1,
2017

Beta testing by
January 1,
2017 and
revisions as
necessary

Stakeholder outreach
process by winter 2016.

Start bidding process, select
vendor, system design by
summer 2016

Data System Development

Role as Basin Manager

Develop fees to support basin management

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graph TD; A[Develop fees to support basin management] --> B[Designate probationary basins]; B --> C[Probationary basins lead to interim sustainability plans]; C --> D[Interim plans manage basins until local efforts come up to speed];
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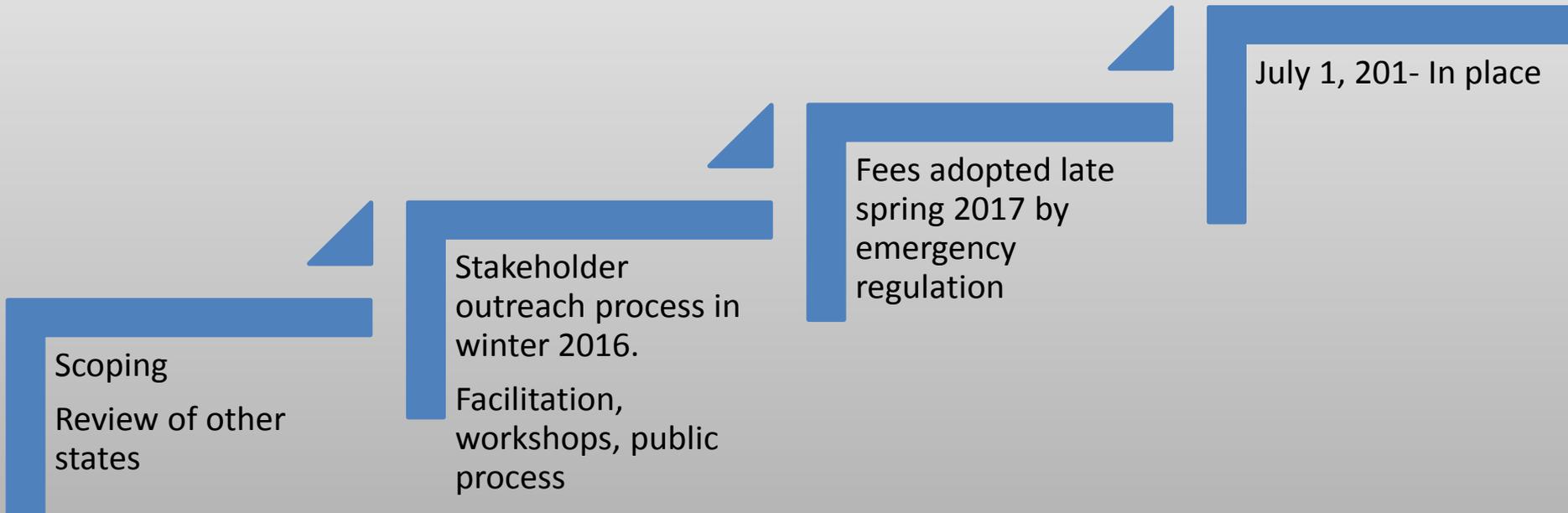
Designate probationary basins

Probationary basins lead to interim sustainability plans

Interim plans manage basins until local efforts come up to speed

Fees

- Cover all costs related to backstop
 - Facilitation, investigation, monitoring, hearings, enforcement, administration
 - PUMA reporting and participation in Board hearings
- Fees need to be in place with data reporting system



DWR Key Activities

- Basin Boundary Revision Regulations
- Identification of Basins in Critical Overdraft
- Update Basin Priorities
- **Regulations for Sustainability Plans and how those plans will be reviewed**
- Communication and Outreach
- Proposition 1 Grant Guidelines and Funding Criteria

SWRCB & DWR Coordination

- Coordination Teams
- DWR responsible for evaluating and accepting GSPs; Board is responsible for implementing backstop, identifying probationary basins, writing interim basin management plans
- Board can request that DWR conduct investigations and provide technical assistance
- In some cases, the Board cannot designate probationary basins without first “consulting with DWR”

Summary: State Board Approach

- Focus on existing authorities
 - Waste and Unreasonable Use
 - Public Trust Doctrine
 - Water Code Section 2100
 - Subterranean Streams
- Support DWR in early years
- Support areas that want the help in early years
- Know the field, be prepared to step in strategically
- Develop ability to use tools sparingly
- Be judicious, strategic, and effective when acting
- Lightest touch possible, with goal of local success

Thank You!

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Additional Information:

www.groundwater.ca.gov

DWR – www.water.ca.gov/groundwater

State Board –

http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/water_issues/programs/gmp/index.shtml

Lyris email alert list:

http://www.swrcb.ca.gov/resources/email_subscriptions/swrcb_subscribe.shtml

